

news & notes

National Museum of the United States Air Force • Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio • www.wpafb.af.mil/museum • May 2006

news briefs



Museum offers free speakers bureau

The museum's Public Affairs Division offers a 30-minute PowerPoint briefing that tells the story of the National Museum of the United States Air Force, from the history and operations to upcoming activities and programs.

The Speakers Bureau program is open to any interested civic and community groups within a 50-mile radius of the museum. Groups must be made up of 25 or more people. All requests must be made in writing to Speakers Bureau, NMUSAF/MUP, 1100 Spaatz St., Wright-Patterson AFB 45433. A 30-day advance notice is required. Advance telephone requests to hold a particular date are acceptable; however, they must be followed-up with a written request.

Requests should include the name of the club or group, point of contact and daytime telephone number, date and time of the meeting, estimated number of participants, description and purpose of the meeting, and directions to the location of the meeting.

For more information, call (937) 255-4704, Ext. 330 or 332.

C-141 'Hanoi Taxi' to make final flight

The first aircraft to return Vietnam prisoners of war to the United States will make its final landing at 9:30 a.m. on May 6 at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

The C-141 "Hanoi Taxi" was the first aircraft to arrive in Hanoi in February 1973 to pick up the POWs returning to the United States. The "Hanoi Taxi" was one of several aircraft involved in repatriating more than 500 American POWs held by the North Vietnamese.

The public can view the aircraft landing from the museum grounds. Those interested are asked to arrive early to prevent possible traffic congestion. Museum gates will open to the public at 8:30 a.m. The aircraft will make several passes over the museum prior to landing.

The film, "Return with Honor," which recounts the story of a group of American pilots who were shot down over North Vietnam and became POWs for more than eight years, will be shown at 1:30 p.m. in the museum's Carney Auditorium.

In conjunction with the final flight of the C-141, the museum will open an expanded exhibit, titled "Return with Honor: American Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia." Located in the museum's Modern Flight Gallery, this permanent exhibit features videos, photographs, dioramas and artifacts to tell the story of American POWs. Artifacts include handmade games, rings, cigarette cases and clothing that were created by the prisoners during their confinement. The exhibit also includes a new display on the Son Tay prison camp rescue raid, which occurred in late 1970 and demonstrated that the United States was serious about the welfare of its POWs.



The "Hanoi Taxi" flies over the museum in December 2005. (Photo courtesy of John Rossino)

Band of Flight's Glenn Miller Tribute set for May 20

The U.S. Air Force Band of Flight will perform its annual Glenn Miller Tribute at 6 p.m. May 20 at the museum. This free outdoor concert features songs by the famous Glenn

Miller Army Air Force Band and is open to the public.

Under the command of Lt. Col. Alan Sierichs, the band travels nearly 100,000 miles each year to present more than 450 performances before military and civilian audiences. The U.S. Air Force Band of Flight was founded in 1942.

For more information about Maj. Glenn Miller and his band, visit <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/afp/miller.htm>. An exhibit is located in the museum's Air Power Gallery.



The Band of Flight performs at a previous Glenn Miller Tribute. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jeff Fisher)

now showing

Daily show schedule for IMAX® Theatre

Schedule good through May 31

Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag: Shown at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. daily.

The Magic of Flight: Shown at 1 p.m. daily.

Straight Up: Helicopters in Action: Shown at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday; 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

on the radar

Through May 7 • Student Aviation Art Exhibition

Through July • “Disney Pins on Wings” art exhibit

May 5, 12, 19, 26 • Behind the Scenes Tours

May 6 • C-141 “Hanoi Taxi” Final Flight

May 20 • Family Day

May 20 • Band of Flight Glenn Miller Tribute

May 23 • Wings & Things Guest Lecture Series

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 • Behind the Scenes Tours

June 17 • Family Day

June 30 • Freedom’s Call Military Tattoo

For a complete list of museum events, please visit <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/pa/06events.pdf>.

Operation Babylift topic of May 23 lecture

Three crew members involved in an ill-fated C-5 flight in 1975 will discuss their experiences during “Reflections on Operation Babylift” at 7:30 p.m. on May 23.

Col. Regina Aune, Col. (Ret.) Bud Traynor and CMSgt. (Ret.) Ray Snedegar were on board a C-5 airlifting Vietnamese orphans from Saigon when it crash-landed on April 4, 1975.

Aune was a flight nurse on board the C-5 assisting with Operation Babylift, which was bringing orphans from Vietnam to the United States. In 1975 she became the first woman to receive the Cheney Award, which recognizes an act of valor “in a humanitarian interest performed in connection with an aircraft.” Aune continues

to serve in the Air Force.

Traynor was aircraft commander of the C-5. After rear-ramp lock failure precipitated a rapid decompression and loss of all flight controls to the tail, he turned back toward Saigon and began a rapid descent before touching down in a rice paddy. Traynor retired from the USAF in 1975.

Snedegar was serving as the senior loadmaster on the flight. He retired from the Air Force in 1990.

This presentation is part of the Wings & Things Guest Lecture Series and takes place in the museum’s Carney Auditorium. Admission is free and doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (937) 255-8046, Ext. 312.



(from left to right) Col. Regina Aune, Col. (Ret.) Bud Traynor, CMSgt. (Ret.) Ray Snedegar. All three were on board a C-5 that crash-landed in 1975 during Operation Babylift.

Annual Military Tattoo scheduled for June 30

When several modern aircraft fly in an aerial parade over Wright-Patterson Air Force Base on June 30, the second annual Air Force Materiel Command Freedom’s Call Tattoo won’t be just an ordinary air show.

This year’s tattoo focuses on current Air Force capabilities and modern aircraft. Activities include aircraft flyovers, performances by the U.S. Air Force Band of Flight and a fireworks show in celebration of Independence Day.

The tattoo events are open to the public. Admission and parking are

free. All activities take place on the rear field at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Spectators are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets.



Gates will open at 5:30 p.m., and pre-show entertainment is planned. Vendors selling food

and drinks will be on site, with concessions similar to those found at a fair (hot dogs, brats, burgers, soft pretzels and others).

More information is available on the Freedom’s Call Tattoo Web site, <http://tattoo.wpafb.af.mil/>.